

**MINUTES OF MEETING
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COORDINATING COUNCIL
HELD
February 22, 2010**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Frank E. Shelp, Department of Behavioral Health
Commissioner B. J. Walker, Department of Human Services
Commissioner Albert Murray, Department of Juvenile Justice
Diane Reeder, parent representative
William McDonald, ex-officio, Governor's Office
Julie Spores, consumer representative – by telephone
Arnold Smith, representing Commissioner Brian Owens
Department of Corrections

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Rhonda Medows, Department of Community Health
Senator Renee Unterman, Member of Senate
Stanley Jones, family member of a consumer

Frank E. Shelp, Chair of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Council called the meeting to order at 10:45 am. Commissioner Shelp announced that Julie Spores was present via telephone.

Katie Dempsey was introduced by Commissioner Shelp as the new Council member appointed by the House of Representatives. Representative Dempsey was elected in November 2006 to represent District 13, including the city of Rome in Floyd County.

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JANUARY 6, 2010

Motion to approve Minutes duly made by Commissioner Albert Murray and seconded by Diane Reeder. Minutes unanimously approved.

Diane Reeder requested that "*NAMI GA Position to Behavioral Health Coordinating Council*" is added to the agenda for discussion. The position document was presented to the Council in December for consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF BHDDCC – EXECUTIVE WORKGROUP

Commissioner Shelp introduced the members appointed by Commissioners of the Council to the Executive Workgroup. The Workgroup will investigate issues and/or concerns identified by the Council. They will report out their findings with potential solutions or recommendation to the Council. The members are:

Department of Behavioral Health
Department of Community Health
Department of Corrections
Department of Human Services
Department of Juvenile Justice

Cassandra Price
Jerry Dubberly
Patricia Smith
Kathy Herren
Rick Harrison

Dr. William McDonald noted for the record that he and Stanley Jones made the following recommendations from the community:

United Way
Cobb CSB

Ann Mintz
Ron Bowen

Motion made by Dr. McDonald to approve Executive Workgroup and seconded by Commissioner Murray. Executive Workgroup unanimously approved. The Council will add two additional members, Dr. Bob Climko and a representative from the Sheriff's Association.

TANF – STIMULUS DOLLARS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES WORKGROUP

Commissioner Walker reported that the staff from Behavioral Health and DHS are meeting to find ways to invest stimulus dollars available to Behavioral Health and the group has agreed on using the funds for "transitional housing" support payments for individuals coming out of substance abuse programs. The workgroup will take up the issue now that it has been decided with areas these funds can be used given the tools that go with them. She also reported that she expected to have the request submitted to the federal government within the next week or two and the turnaround time from the feds will probably be sometime in mid-March.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Shelp reported that the Department of Justice and the Department of Behavioral Health will be meeting next week with Judge Parnell to explore the settlement agreement and the allegation by the Department of Justice that an emergency exists.

Pharmacy Purchasing and Practice

Commissioner Shelp raised issues that have surfaced involving multiple agencies and centering on behavioral health and behavioral health treatment. Some issues are coming from constituents and primarily sheriffs dealing with transitional issues of jailed inmates. One issue involves costs and quality of care. Costs involve three of the top five and five of the top ten most expensive medicine classes in a state Medicaid budget. Cost becomes big issues for smaller agencies, especially county jails and those not being Medicaid eligible or where eligibility has elapsed for one reason or another.

Commissioner Shelp noted that we have to accurately procure and distribute medication after purchase. Quality of care is another element that is an issue. He noted that the majority of psychotic medication is prescribed by non-psychiatry specialists, pediatricians, ob-gyns, family practitioners and others. It is not uncommon for medication to be prescribed by another medical provider. This leads to quality concerns and lapses in continuity of medication. Commissioner Shelp suggested that the task force look at the evaluation of pharmacy programs with an eye towards what kind of guidance can the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council give both in the procurement of medication and getting a common best price across Georgia agencies. This would entail having a common formulary or preferred medication list to minimize transitions that occur when someone moves from one list to another and then the more difficult task of

what kind of quality management would be effective in overseeing people on medication.

Commissioner Walker asked that the Executive Workgroup explore the lapses in delivery service and look at other states and how they address the issues and is there a way for us to address them through the ways we fund behavioral health medication now.

NAMI GA POSITION PAPER TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Diane Reeder asked the Council to support the NAMI GA Position Paper especially funding for Position #5: Opening Doors to Recovery Pilot Grant. After much discussion it was decided that the Council will take a closer look at priorities of NAMI and will further study the initiatives and see how they fit into the overall agency goals. Commissioner Murray requested additional time to review in order to respond to request. Commissioner Shelp noted that Items 2-5 are core to behavioral health and there is not enough specificity to take to legislators requesting funding. Diane Reeder requested that the Council keep the Position Paper and respond to each other by email of their thoughts.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. William McDonald stated that he is running into problems with public housing when it is discovered that the person has a criminal record. Commissioner Walker stated that this is the case because of federal regulations. Federal policy must be changed at the national level to end this problem. She stated that public housing at one time was seen as a hot bed for crime and this rule was put in place to restrict housing for people with certain criminal convictions.

Commissioner Shelp requested that Cassandra Price of the Department of Behavioral Health initiate the first meeting of the Executive Workgroup and report back to the Council at the next meeting.

Commissioner Murray offered to host a future meeting of the Council at his facility in Decatur. Commissioner Shelp noted that after the legislative session ends we will take him up on his offer.

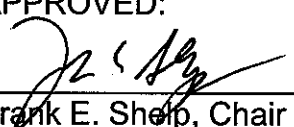
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Behavioral Health Coordinating Council is scheduled for Monday, March 29, 2010.



B. J. Walker, Secretary

APPROVED:



Frank E. Sharp, Chair